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CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF

PVT. ELIAS BAXTER DECKER OF TIPTON, INDIANA

75TH INDIANA INFANTRY, COMPANY G, 1857-1865

. . [Owned in the 1960s by Mrs. Robert A. Carter and Jared Carter, 714 South B Street, Elwood, Indiana]

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Allen County Public Library
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25 Letters from Elias Baxter Decker; to his wife, Luvina:

1.	6 May 1857	Decatur, Alabama
2.	24 Nov 1862	Camp Scotsville, Kentucky (one page missing)
3.	23 Jan 1863	Camp Murfreesboro, Tennessee missing
4.	10 Jun 1863	Camp Kean, Murfreesboro, Tennessee
5.	28 Sep	Chattanooga, Tennessee missing
6.	17 Oct 1863	Chattanooga, Tennessee
7.	25 Oct 1863	Chattanooga, Tennessee
8.	6 Nov 1863	Chattanooga, Tennessee
9.	4 Dec 1863	Chattanooga, Tennessee
10.	22 Mar	Ringold, Georgia
11.	28 Feb	Ringold, Georgia
12.	9 Mar	Ringold, Georgia
13.	20 May	camp in the field, Georgia
14.	22 Jul 1864	near Atlanta, Georgia
15.	24 Jul 1864	(near Atlanta)
16.	16 Aug 1864	" "
17.	24 Aug 1864	" "
18.	19 Sep 1864	Atlanta, Georgia
19.	24 Oct 1864	Galesville, Alabama
20.	8 Feb 1865	
211		Fayettville, N.C.
22.	15 Mar 1865	
23.	7 Apr 1865	Goldsboro, North Carolina
24.	28 May 1865	camp near Washington City
25.	3 Jun 1865	District of Columbia, near Washington City

2 Letters from "Lieutenant Decker" to E.B. Decker and wife:

A.	19 Oct 1861	Camp Nevin, Kentucky
B.	24 Mar 1862	Tennessee

1 Letter from Reece Jack to E.B. Decker and wife:

C.	20 Oct 1861	Camp Penon

1 Letter from S.G. Decker to "Father":

D.	10 Apr 1862	Savannah, Tennessee

Loaned for copying to Indiana Sesquicentennial Manuscript Project by Mrs. Robert A. Carter and Jared Carter, Elwood, Indiana.

Decatur Alabama May the 6 1857

To home it has been some time since I have written to you & a longer time since I hard from you I have been on a long trip just lately & at this time is not settled I come to this place Sunday eve I left Corinth - Miss - on last Thursday & went to memphis Tenn which is 200 miles from this place the greate Jubiles was thare friday & Saturday it is thare I for the first time saw the greate River Miss & the State of Arkansaw I thare saw the Navy yard the longest rope factory in the world it is a brick house covered with slate ½ a mile long & so fat wide I thought of stoping at that place but it was crowed I then went to the River to get on boat for Louisville Ky. waited too days & non come bord bill 2.00 pr day & not much tim & I thought it was a most to soon in the season to come to Tipton yet I concluded to try my luck a little longer in this state but I have not set in yet but I think my prospects pritty fare though not just in this place some 20 miles below heare at Cortland I will go in 1 or 2 days I suppose the weather to be verry cold with you yet the cotton heare is just comeing up the corn is bigenought to plough there is lots of bitles heare & has been for a week though it is verry cold yet corn $1.00 wheat 1.50 green beef on the 25 bacon 14 to 16 & there is but little co[illegible] are a shipin corn from Mosouri & Ill to Knoxville they have a rail road from Charleston S. C. to memphis they brought 2 barrels of water out of the atlantic to memphis & poured her in to show that there was a direct communication from Miss to the Atl

So no mains

L B Reeder

Nov 24 1862

Camp Scottsville Ky

Most Esteemed wife & Babes with Good Health & a good prospect of remaining So I Drop my Ass on my Knapsack & paper on my Knee to Let you no that I Still right to you & Ever will as long as I can Scratch with a pen I was out on picket last night it was pritty cold the nights is frosty & the days warm we have had but one rain to amount to anything Since I Left home Camp Life is a hard Life for Just at fore we all fall in line in too files & Stands one hour then breakfast then at 8 we drill one hour then 9½ we drill then dinner then Battalion drill 2 hours then Dress perade at that time it is Sun down then Supper then Roll call now for my house it is a camp tent round at the bottom and runs up to a Sharp point I Expect we will leave heare in a day or to I have rote to you Ever week & will all the time if I can health is pritty good in camp I Seen to day in the Indiana State Journal the name of Isacc. Decker he Died at Danville Ky. Oct 30 he belonged to the 80th Ind. Vol. Co. I has harves or Isacc boy left if So let me no Right Soon Dear wife & Ever believe me your Dear husband

Good by Dear wife & babes E. B. Decker Kiss the Babes for paw go to tinton & git all you wants & have it

June the 11 1863

Camp near Murfree

Boro

Most esteemed

wife & Babes I have

the proud opportunity to

Inform you that I am well

I have had a Bad cold but

I am now pretty well over

it I left Indianapolis

on friday & got heare on

Sunday at noon the Boys was

proud to see me they all come

rushing to shake hands with

me we have moved our camp

one mile East I thought it

was best not to leave

Camp & come home as the

order was very strict they

was 5 out of the same

Co that come with me

we was all on Brigade

Wright vs. Ewer

E. B. Deelich
Inv. Car. of Capt
Smith
75 Jud Ct

I drill yesterday & will have
to go on Batallion Drill this
Evening Jess Stilley told
that tale I suppose to keep
me from comeing Back as
he took my coat & all my
clothes but my over coat &
Blanketts Capt Smith is at
hom on a sick furlow Sam
Car has resigned now when
I right I will tell you
just how things is and
I dont want you to believe
one thing you heare from they
will lye inorder to decive you
as soon as I draw my
money that soon I will send
you some this war depends on
the fall of Vicksburg may
god Bless you & the Bals
E. B. Deeken

Oct 17 1863
Chattanooga Tenn

Most Esteemed Wife & Babes
I am is Still well & Safe & heare at the Same place for the Last 3 or 4 days it has been verry wet & disagreeable But this morning the Sun has Cleared away the Sky & Looks as we will have fine weather for a while the River is Raiseing verry fast in a Short time it will be up so that Boats can come over the Mussel Shoels then we will have our grub fetched up the River frome Bridgport this will Releave a good deal of Labor that we have to do now as we have to hall it ove the mountain & the Road is verry Bad there will be no move made heare Soon if at all we will not advance in front of us our movements will be for Some army to go Round them hooker is on our Right & Burnsides on our left

Some of Our Boys was down to
Steperson the Other day & Seen the
39 boys there Redgement is filled up
with Concripts they ar guarding the
Road between heare & thare Reece is
well I heard of him a few days
a go Ab. Headly is dead he was Shot
through the Breast Martin Jackson
& Monroe Miner has died of there
wounds I have got no letter
frome home Since the fight that
was Role Since but I no they are on
the Road & will come up Some of
thoes days daniel has come back
he is Sound & I was on picketts
last night all quiett Send me
the Returns of the State Election
of Ohio you can cut it out & send
it in a letter we do not get
many different papers heare
the Nashville union & Louisville
Journal is the principal ones
Right Good By for this time E. B. Decker

Luvina I wish you would get
Jack to go to Franklin or it may
be at Perkinsville at all
Events I will tell what I
want him to do Jessee Stilley
when he left took my dress
coat home with him which he
had no right or claime to it I

Suppose he thought I would not
come back & he would take it
but it is mine & he had no
claime what ever & I want
him to get it for me the sooner
the better it is as good as new
the Initials of my name is on
the lineing of the arm hole
on the Sholder get it & I will
well pay him have it at all

L. P. Decks Lazards

Letter from Pecker to Lavina & the Babies

Oct the 26 1863

Chattanooga Tennessee In Camp

Most Esteemed Wife & Babes Paw has the pleasure to wright you a line this fine Sabath morning Informing you that I am well & as hartty as Comon there is no fighting going on now in this vicinity nor there has not been any since we have been heare only Some canonading the Rebs Shelled us one day & night But they done us no harm & I guess they found it out & quit they busted one of there canon a 24 pounder I learnt yesterday that they was falling Back to Atlanta that is 137 miles South of this place one of the men threw a Shell in the fire that had been Shot & did not burst But when he threw it in She went it Killed one white man & wounded 4 or 5 negroes it was not in our Regment Some. Nice this Army is newly Organised General Grant has Command he will bring his army heare in fact he has a good many of them heare now he will have to Road Some of the Rebs a long the River So we can Run Boats as the Roads is So bad

we cant hall to do much good Some of the Boys is not in a verry
good humor now on the account of Rations but there is no danger of
us suffering us and the Rebs are pritty close I can See there
Camps verry plain & when we are on pickett we get water
Out of the Same Spring we talk together & Exchange papers
you would think Strange of this but we dont as there is
a muteral agreement not to Shoot on the pickett Line if a
man was to Shoot & kill on either Side he would be tred for
murder & Shot or hung A pickett Line is to watch the
movements of the enemy & give the a larm in camp
if the army was advancing & to keep them back from our
works so they will not no how we are fixed & So on & So forth
I Received your kind letter dated the, 10 it was the first Since
the battel I was proud of it you had better believe you spoke of 3 I have
rote more than a dozen but you will have them before you get this in
one of them I give the full list of killed & wounded Monroe Milner
Martin Jackson & John handshier has died of there wounds Since
you have all most forgotten how to back your letters there
is no use of marking them is hast with in & nor of Blacking there

So full of provisions that they
can hardly unload we will have
plenty from this on bacon has been
sold heare as high as a dollar a pound
in good money Buiscuits such as you
bake would sell heare for 2 dollars per
dozen but there is nothing heare to
sell the Rebbels is in our front &
we have cleaned out all that is
behind us so there is nothing but what
we draw the Rebels throw some
shell occasionly over at some of our
troops but does no ~~hath~~ harm they
will be some Recruiting officers
leave this Regment & the 101
all so capt Jerpin will come
home you must up & see him when
he comes but I will tell him
to come & see you I am in hopes
that we will be paid before he comes
so I can send you some money

Ver
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Nov the 6 1863

Chattanooga Tenn

Most Esteemed & Loving
Wife & Children Now is Still
a live and well hardy as a
Bear but provision is verry
Scarce we are & has been living
on one forth Grub owing to the
bad Road we only have now to
haul it 7 miles So from this on
all the difficulty now is getting
a cross the River the River has
risen right smart & the
Rebels has been making Rafts
of logs to neck our pontoons
down they sent one down the
other day that had five hundred
logs in it it necked too boats
loose but they was soon righted
the logs that has been down where
the boats landed says the dwarf is

I have plenty of paper & envelops

No. 4

December 4th 163

Chattanooga Tenn

Third Division Second Bagade Our Division is Commanded by Genl Beard our Brigade is Commanded by Wanderver Our Regment by Col. Robenson our Comd by Capt. Smith Most Esteemed wife & Children Paw is well & hartly you would think so if you had seen me eat this morning three tins of Coffee & a pan full of fried Beef we get all the beef we want & in fact we are now pritty well fed there is nething new heare we heare that Burnsides at Knoxville is in a close place & I expect he is Knoxvill is one hundred & tenn miles a love heare we sent one corpse of men up there Last monday & one corpse yesterday now I must tell you what a corpse is fore Regments forms a brigade and three brigads forms a division & three divisions forms a corpse so there is thirty six Regments in one corps which is thirty six thousand men in one corpse when it is full. The last corps that left was ordered to be at Knoxvills in fore days that will be marching all most day & night that will make the

yours of the 23 came to hand last night I
was pleased to learn you was well & all so to learn
that you had met with the Good luck to meet with
a good friend for I no that for you to Stay by your
Self is a hard life especially to get wood &
to attend two all the out doors work I hope
you will get a long fine & ~~ff~~ live a happy life
I hope it cant be long till I will be permitted
to come home to Stay as for coming on business
there no hopes now in the least I dont even think
of Such you Stated you had got the note I ~~sa~~
Sent & that Stock owed you ~~fifty five~~ five dollars
if he dont give up my note even for what
he owes me & the frazier note dont trade
make him pay you the five dollars if he dont
Trade the way I have Stated Get Samuel to
take the note over to quincy & have it
filed on the ~~ad~~ Administers trators books
that it is a Shape so there will be no trouble
of getting it it will be best to See Mr
frazier as he goes over you ~~to~~ will let
Samuel See this & he will consider it as
I was writing to him I have Sent
you fifty dollars & I do not no when I will
be able to Send any more this note I

I send you I will have to pay dance
next pay day I tell you this so you will
be on the look out though I am satisfyed
you will spend to a good purpose the health of
the camp is good I thank you for your envelope
I have sent you my likeness some time a go
Mrs Rebecca my respects to you I hope you are
living more contented than you was when you
had to smuggle your letters through the blocade
though I one some times even then you was made
happy when you would get a letter for instance
not when the rest would find it out though
but I am happy for you now as that victory
is won & you have no more trouble about letter
wrighting hear is my for good luck to you
If I did not no that Samuel & Luvina would
find it out I would say I would give you one
good kiss when I come home but they might
not like it how curious people is so
I will bid you good by for this time Samuel
I hope you all the success that is due you &
I think that is a good big bundle so I will
close I am going on the top of the lookout
after diner Let me hear from you
often ed freemon is our post master
E H Becker

Head Quarters Kingsville, Ga. Mar 22

Mrs Lurina P. Missis Melinda & Florence Farewell

I received yours yesterday was proud to heare you was all well & that you had heard from me since the movement on Lumkin hill I see the accounts in the papers of the Skirmish at that place but that is all I did see I no there was right smart Canonading & some small fireing I no our brigade was no engaged some of our advance guards or Skirmishers fired a few shots at long range long range is from half to a mile distance we had too or three men slightly wounded in the regiment as to all the rest of the movements you are well posted as I be lieve is heare most every day he looks better than I ever saw him they think they will get to come home soon but there is no certainty of any one coming home untill they start & let there we are still heare in the same camp & has splended tents and plenty to eat and wars I got a letter from Henry D. yesterday they are all well he tells me he has been to see you the too letters you want to no about was written one for wily Ingram one for Isaac perkins I suppose you thought I was wrighting to some woman but you are quite mistaken I wright some weeks at least a dozen there is six or 8 in the company that can wright & I of corse wont refuse to wright for them for I no they have wives children & parents which is anxious to heare from them you can rest contented that I have but one woman to address & one only that one has the full love of my hart undivided & I am satisfyed it is appreciated at least I believe it

Eb Decker

while I am wrighting the cars has just come
in on her first trip from Chattanooga So now we
can get the mail & send it regular we will soon have
a big comisary heare Daniel is well he is in my bank now
we drawed our money some dages a go $26 I have not
sent you any this time I was some in debt I paid
Daniel $16 on the $35 note owed some for tobacco &
some drils of borrowed money & $26 did go verry fair tell
me how you ar off how much you have & how much
you owe it any So I will no how to play my
cards I am some in debt now but mby fortune
will smile some of thoes ~~I~~ dages. this is about
all So Good by for this time

Yours Truly Ernest wife & Children
E. L. Decker

Ringold Georgia feb 28

Most Beloved
wife with pleasure I wright
you a few lines to let you
know that I am still on foot &
well we left Chattanooga on
last monday come to this place
the next day we went within two
miles off Dalton the same night
we fell back five miles the same
night we went back near
tunnel hill we fell back the
same night all this time our
advance was skirmishing this
was done to keep the rebels
from reinforcing other places
we succeeded in it we are
now 20 miles from Chatt—
we have just stopped here &
will stay here I cant tell
but for some time I guess

No 21

Direct as you have
before Till I tell
you letter

I no you will be mad
as this move will be in
the papers I have a
chance to write tonight
as our teams is going back
in the morning after our
tents & napsacks I got 2
letters from you this
week one stating you
had got my letters we
are in the left position
we have been since we
have been out you must
excuse this & as quick as
I get my pocket up &
dunk I will tell it all
to you though you have
the most off it in this

yours as ever I
have too others to
write yet to night
E B Cooper

No 23

Ringold Georgia March the 8

Mrs Lurina I have Just Received a Letter from you dated the 3 I had the pleasure to Read it to Reed he come to See me to day he is quarted some three hundred yards from me his company is Stepping heare to rest a while he will wright to you tomorrow I guess he looks better than I have ever seen him he is well & so am I this is good news to you I no handsheu is well So is Capt Level this is all Concerning them I hope you are well all so thoes too Sweet Babes --- Concerning the Ditch let it be till I come home for I no that it is worth no 35 or no 40 no dod d I dont want the dam Land Sharks to fleece me in that Shiphe nor I dont intend for them to do it Sow the Seed this thing cant last allways Sill it may out last me but I hope not it wont take 17 months long to run out no way but I dont believe we will have to Stay it I will have to thank you for your prompt and kindness for answering my letters I have got 8 from you Since the 22 of feb and this is only the 8 of march bully for a Good and Kind wife now when I am wrighting wife I feel all over my Self how I would to have a good Kiss dont you no I would dog on it it is a nough to make me tare my hair out to think and no that I have a good wife Some where and one that wants to See me as I verly believe and I am heare tied down by military tyrany a wise man looks before he leaps but a fool takes Chances but it is likely it is all for the best any way best or worst I am in for it and I will do the best I no how I will quit till morning good night

Remember

The Object of knowledge is truth the Essence of all moral Goodness is love the Spring of all spiritually activity is faith the foundation of ever virtue is humility the first duty of a Sinner is Repentance the fount of all Blessing is Jesus Christ the Source of all Grace and peace our happiness is the best promoted by seeking the welfare of Others the most valuable riches is Contentment the light to guide ever steps of our progress is the Bible the Rogues is the man that cheat a Soldiers wife takes all advantage of her helpless Condition whilst he the husband is in ever danger to promote the good of his country has to peril his life to protect the undermining Coward who lyes in his Kennel with his rotten hart — Studdying how to cheat the Soldiers wife & Children out of the little Savings he earns at forty three cts per day JHSL we unto all such vipers.

Though I stand a lone at night
And my hopes are buried low
By thy smile my Soul is lighted
In the darkest nights of ~~two~~ woe

Though the world has all forsaken
Thou art true as in the past
Thy pure love remains unshaken
By the Storm and tempest blast

And when others have defamed me
To their lies thou didst not heed
Nor a husband thou'st ever claimed me
Trust in my utmost need

and now by the world forsaken
And a mark for a bitter mute hate
Though heart riven yet Soul unshaken
I am equal to my fate

No worse than the past has brought me
Can the future have in Store
And the lesson Some has taught me
I place trust in hope no more

Though by all the world forsaken
I have still a friend in the
And tis sweet the one unshaken
Is the dearest one to me

E M Dockery

February The 9. 1864
Camped at Ringold Ga

Dear Sister as I have the opportunity of Riting with
U R once more I will jist Drop you a few
lines to let you no that i have not for got
you yet and I hope that these few lines will find
you in good health I have had the Best of health
Since I last heard from you and I hope that these
few lines will find you in good health and all the rest of
the friends in that part of the land as we have not got
any friends here we Do not care what Dose Become
of them I cant Say that i have got much to write
at this time I have been out here in front for the last
16 Days and i jist got in yesterday and I Dont no.
But what there is Some Letters in Camp for me
at this time. Every thing was Quiet in front when I
left and is to Day I got to those Babies that you
Spoke a Bout and they look very do well indeed
I was glad to see them look so well I think
that it will not Be long untill I will see
them at home But Dont look for me untill
I come for it may Be soon and it may not
~~Here~~ therefore Dont look untill you can see
So I will close for this time hoping to hear
from you soon yours untill Death
To Lurina Parker
Reece JAC R

No 57

May 29th

Camp in the field Georgia

Most Esteemed wife & Children I

write you are uneasy this time for I have not
rote Since the 6 of may & the reason is
verry good we have been on the march for
15 days we left Ringold on the 7th may
& come up with the Rebs the same Enemy the first day
& has been fighting ever day Since we are
now camped in a verry nice field the rebs
has been running for Several dayes we have
drove them from Dalton & is Still Driving
them we are about 40 miles South off
Dalton we have drove them ~~from~~ 50 miles
& the last account they are going like the
devil we have been in the center & on
the wright wing Our Regiment has
had but one man wounded he belonged
to Co A I dont think we have lost
many men concidering the position the
Rebs was tremendiously fortifyed at
dalton & 15 miles South but they could

not Stand our heavy guns we raised
Canister & Shell thick & fast at one
time we had One ~~hun~~ hundred canon
playing on them at once Some off them
20 & 24 pounders we got so close to
there Breast works that they could not
use there guns for as fast as one would
pop up his head Some Sharp Shooter
would hop a hole through it we have
got but very little news as yet
from Grant if he is Successful at
richmon the thing is played in the
coarse of 10 days we will have too
hundred thousand men we have the
cars running heare to this place So we
will have plenty to eat I have got
all the Letters you have Sent I guess
as all mail comes to us I got the 57
& paper & thread I got one Dated the
5 of may that is the last I have
got if Since we have been out Fone
from Salinah I will not

trye to say any thing concerning
the march in this as I have no chance
to wright only on my knee when we
get fixed up I will tell you all this
will show you that we are all wright
P S I am glad of it we wont have a
chance to wright Regular for a few
days till some maile line is rightly
fixed but it will be soon I think
now strong of being home Christmas
I am as harty as a buck &
all Right & has been So
Good By for this time keep
wrighting rite 2 to.

E B Becker

all our Boys is in very good health
& in fine Spirits Church Morals is ~~no~~
reviving I think we will be paid in the
~~the~~ course of a few days they are paying
the ~~2d~~ 23 corps now I think our time
is not fair distance we have a Splendid
Spring & is well & fixing up well &
so on this is all at present Give my
love Let me no who my new Brother
law is where Tom Jackson is & where he
lives for he never rites to me let me no
when you heard from Reese So Good
By for this time much Love to
you & the Boles & friends —

Yours
J. B. Decker

No. 53

I will send you a ring
though not a very nice one
it is made of gutapercha

No 53

August Tuesday 18th

Mrs Decker & Mister I am well & hearty as
hearty as I have been for a long time I had a splendid
mess of Roasteners for Supper & for Breakfast there
is a good deal of the corn getting tolerable hard we have
to go 10 & 12 miles for them now we take a waggon
when we go 25 bushels will make our Regiment
a mess it would not take so much if we got them
Regular we at laying in the same place we was
when I last rote we are doing a better business
now than we have been for some time we have no
Shooting on our picket line and the Reb's is
coming in verry fast I can only speak for our
own Brigade though I suppose it is the case all a
long the whole line night before last 27 come in
yesterday morning 6 last night 36 and so it goes they
say the most of them would come over if they could
get the chance if we stay here I think we will
take a greate many of them in 3 or 4 days a go
Seven hundred come in the Rebels fired on them as
on they come they are tired of it they say they
have nothing to fight for but them. Sefus no

now for the President or any other man I
could cut your Figure very Short by simply saying
I will not vote for any one as this is the case as
the Legislature of Indiana does not Recognise us
as citizens of our State though I believe all other
States allowes there men the privality of voting
in the field all does except Ind. & I think New
Jersey but I will say the same as if I had a vote
though at the present time it would be impossible
for me to say as the Democrats has not nominated
any one as yet unless they chime fremont & I cant
see how they can claim him consistantly as he
run once on the Abolition platform & was the first
for Emancipation in ~~the~~ Missouri & as to the
one that will be put fourth the 29 of this mo
I can say nothing for him as I do not no him
he may suit me & he may not as to father
Abraham I will lay him on the Shelf
though if Andrew Jonson was for president
he would be my choice I have voted for him
and I think he is a sound man he has all
ways been a true Democrat but as she
is at the helm I will pass it and call
for a new deal

we have Some verry heavy grape vines news
heare once and a while it is talked a greate deal
about us comeing home to vote Some times it is
all the Indiana Soldiers then those that come out
under the call I come under others that the 87
101 & 75 will be called home to see the draft
is rightly enforced this is the talk but I have
seen no Sider as yet I only hope it may be
so I I am satisfyed that there will be Some called
home and we may be the luckey ones but time will
tell by writing and writing wont prolong our
time no way I dont think we will do much more
heare for a while it appeares that both armyes
is resting this being the case we are doing more good
than if we was fighting as they will desert to
a greate extent i . Badge the blue cruel is
the Stuff the badge is intended to weare on
the hat as the badge of the 14 corps for inst
if you see a man with it you no what corps he is
in the 20 corps has a Star all corps has different
badges ours is to be like a acorn or a bunch
of acorns I am looking for yours in the
next So I can tell you whether it is right
or not

[illegible]

Camp 54

Aug 24 1864

Mrs Decker with pleasure I write you a few friendly lines this pleasant morning though it has been raining off & on for several days I think it is now stopped for a while I am in as good health as could be expected we are at the same place where we was when I last wrote the army seems to be on a stand still though our flanks & Cavalry is cutting the railroad now & then the armies seems to be resting Atlanta is still held by the Jones though Gen Sherman says he can take it in six hours any time he wants to but it would cost too many good men & he is bound to flank them out & fetch a good portion of them I heard from home since the other day he is well so is George Randsheer he is not hurt they are all on our right & left flank they are gone on a raid to cut the Macon road I think it is cutting

I received one or 2 days
go & the 2 Kiplings look very
slim & seem my origin. Mat-rule—
ness & a lot of boys & men & have
killed both. They are all in fine spirits
they had paid off a few days ago
& think surely we will soon be
paid off. received 2 letters from
home the other day one both the 2
though they are very nice & all
seem the blue one had the high
color of the men. I will
the letter man. Could never
is heard in camp sound of me
& he says he forgiveth often
as to politics they don't bother me in
the least as I no I have no vote & is
almost give up the idea of getting
home until next august I shall stand
it 2 months & I think I can drag
out a seven more let the rules
that will force cant be made in a
short time no way my views I told you
in a former letter

Since writing I learn that Grant
has got two lines of the Richmond
road — I hear he is to Richmond it
seems it is true certain for he has been
firing shelling the town for some time
this is a long call so give me
a good one my own dear
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

NB I get a letter today from
[illegible]
glad to hear he was home

letters of the 10 has just come
I am glad to hear you & the
babes is on foot & well I
never have frome Dock P.
I suppose he has gone to the
army I heard from Reece
yesterday the 18 is camped
near Sand town 12 miles off Corr.
Lewt was here yesterday Reece
is well George Landsheia is well
& all P. no on the company
is well & happy no pay
yet I suppose they will
hold it back till we start
or till we get to Indianapolis
so it right the bell off
it if we should not get
paid till then it would be
next August. This is all
so good by for this time
much love to you & the babes
Direct Atlanta, Ga
care of) via (F. M. Jeffery)

"The U. S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION sends this sheet as a messenger between the soldier and his home. Let it hasten to those who wait for tidings."

Augusta Ga Sept the 19

Dear wife & Loving Children I am in well & Lively health so then Comon we are all most Certain we will do at home at the Election this will be quite a treat But on the other hand if we are defeated there will be more torin hearted men than ever you read of in 6 or 8 Days will tell how the cat will Jump this day twelve months a go was our first Introduction of any magnitude to troubling Feel & Iron ~~thro~~ through the air not Caring Seamingly who it hit or where it went. this day one year a go was where I seen the first man that I ever saw killed there was where my Comerades fell thick I past there in the have

where the Brave Fred Markham fell
by my Side pierced through the
heart with a minie ball also
Corp. John Kendshier John Robins
William Mathes - John Nelson
Monroe Miner Martin Jackson
three fell dead & three fell mortally
wounded besides ten others wounded
& two captured this was 19 out of
forty this was the hardest fought
battle of the age we have lost but
two mortally wounded since Jacob
Peters & Elijah Tiwarth one wounded
Samuel McMahan pore finger shot to
we have traveled since leaving
Springfield over 200 miles though
a air line is only 100. yes we
have traveled at 200 we have built
Brass works enough to Span the
earth I had a naughty of Iron
I feel prepared at us to form a
good size mountain —

we get but very little news
from Virginia I suppose they
are lying still that is I has
I will be a hard place but
Grant the Giant will make it
fall but it is I has I will cost
too many men there has been
a great deal of fight I have men
fell in that army I no the
people begin to think at home
I have I seen it in the papers that
he could not succeed in taking
this City but we have gotten it in
that with small loss we would
have had it long since if they had
not changed Generals Johnson
would have gone long since I
took all with him but had had the
stubborn thing to leave so he left the
power of his army, several big guns
so loads of ammunition and a lot of
other valuables

October 24 1864

Camp Talladega Alabama

Mr J. L. C. Sir You will obtain the power of attorney for me in behalf of ten acres of land to which my wife Lucinda Cooper is an heir sold to Benjamin Pratt & assign you the power to make a good deed for the same

C. F. Cooper

Co. army corps
Third Division
Second Brigade
Seventy eight regiment
Company G.

C. F. Cooper

Oct 24 1865

Most Esteemed Wife & Children with the kindness of Providence I take pen to inform you a few lines I am well & hearty we are now at Gainesville Alabama on the Tombigbee river we are not moving very fast we have been here 2 days with today here is twenty miles here & we are leaving them we have all the flour sweet & Irish potatoes fresh beef mutton & chickens we want all to eat the molasses our Company got a barrel yesterday I received yours stating that you had or could sell the 10 acres of land I will give $1.00 the power for the land is very cheap at the price but it appears that we will never be paid the mail will go in a few minutes much love to you & the two little girls from

E. P. [illegible]

February the 16

Mr & Mrs Dear & Girls
I have the pleasure to announce
to you that I am well & in good
health & received your letter last
night I have got three from you
since I have wrote to you I would
have wrote to you sooner but I
have been out on a scout five
days & just got in last night I will
tell you some of the tale the
first we went some 80 miles
nothing occurred but the loss of
3 men they strayed off & were
taken prisoners the 2d day all
right till noon when our
advance run in to the rebels
& commenced shooting we
soon made made them take
to their heels there was
thousands of them & we

Aug 2 that night me & 2 of the
boys got five good hams
of meat & lived well allso a
pat shoal the 3 day all right
that night we layd in camp &
slept well 4 day all right
that evening we layed in
more good hams & fared
sumptuously the fifth day
all right come home at so al
night got in the trip three
hundred horses & mules & a
fine lot of beef there is a
prospect for us to get our
money shortly but cant
tell till it comes I dont need
any money keep all you have for
you & the boys I am out of
debt heare & has 19 or 20
dollars comming to me besid
my wages I will live certain
while I am heare & no mistake

If you have not sent your
a the babes likeness yet send
them when you can I will send
you mine when I can get the
Chance heare is too little
tobacco I will send to the
babes I no they will play with
them tell the babes to be good
children and they will come
home soon I think I may see
Col Little Jo name have my
picture when she wants it
Kiss them for me I tell them
have told you to be good
Children & you will dress your
Mare is well I is close
heare where I am camped
I have not seen him since
I have come back but will
see him to day I quit fight
soon God bless you this time
Ebenezer

Cut them in lots one per week

Lagrange N. C.

Mr. Decker I write this time you will think some up he is but we all come out right once more I am well as nearly as I have been since I have been out we have had the longest campaign & the hardest we ever had it has rained intolerable since we started we have come some 4 or 5 hundred miles we have crossed the Savannah twice the Ebenezer the Congaree the Broad twice the Saluda twice on 2 other roads we are on the Catawba River it has rained 20 days since we left Savannah we have had no fighting to do since we left we have drove a army before us all the time our Regiment was deployed but come in this place our company F. B. K & G. come in on the Alexander road

Have lost none of us hurt this is a
nice place & this is a nice morning & we
have a nice camp & I have a calf a quart
of nice biscuits & last out a fresh cow
there is 2 or three boats at the river
the office will be home tonight & we
we expect a Kansas mail here now the
days is the longest I ever saw them
waiting mail I now I will get it & if
I do not I will be disappointed as soon
as the mail is rightly opened I
will write you every day how
details [illegible] nothing this will
come I will close yours with love
T B Peck
here is well [illegible]

March 25. 1863

Fayetteville N C

Dear wife & babes I am spared by the kind hand of providence to write to you once more I am well & hearty I wrote you a few lines the other day out the mail leaves to day at three I will write some more I do not think we will stay here but a short time I think we will go to Goldsborough it is 60 miles down the river since I have commenced orders has come to move light off So you can't expect much of a letter when we get through I no we will get mail then So Good By for this time

E B Decker

I rote this at fayettville
but had no chance now
I let it come

D B Peck

a distance of five hundred miles
it is there you will find a heap of them a
mong the thousands of others that has fallen
by disease & rebel balls but since we
left Ringold for georgia last may we
have lost but one man he was shot before
atlanta (Elijah Jewark) the regment has
lost but very little I pity any new
regment that has to come out for at
least one half of them will die the first
year this is a big calculation but it is too
true after that time they are
generally healthy I have to go on
Inspection now in a short time we
have inspection two three times a week
but this dont a mount to much the
drums is beating now the Bands
is playing the men collecting to
I will have to be a moving
in order to be kept being flanked
at this is a fine funny Day

Goldsboro N C Oct 19th

Sunday Morning ½ past Six, 1864

To the queen of the west

The Champion of the South can inform the queen that he is well & hearty & hopes the Lilly of the west is blooming and the smaller flowers is doing fine it is impossible for me to foresee the change that will take place here in a short time which there will be no doubt the news reached here last night that Grant had demoralized Lee's army and was taking it all in the big breakdown all on this rebelion is played out

Last night was one of the happiest nights that has ever been seen in the army every man was a Statesman & nearly all was shooting or throwing skyrockets it was kept up till a late hour the boys was restless could not be still

In a few days I think our destination
will be visable we may ~~go~~ go to ~~North~~
Raleigh the capital of this State it is
about 60 miles distant we may stay there
or we may turn our course to Newbern
so I will be in Indianapolis in 30
days but all this you can see if you
watch the papers as I dont think our
movement will be kept a secret as it
has been heare to fore I dont think we
will be cut off from communication
any more I dont think we will have
to go any more to the field I dont think
if peace was made or we was to stare
home that the Soldiers would be
permitted to go it in fact it
would not do they would become
ungovernable there is a greate many
that has old grudges a gainst officers
that they would have retired as soon
as they found they was out of

there will be a heap of sore hearted offices
when we are let loose & they no it there is a
heap of them that deserves it and no doubt
they will receive there just rewards if we
go to newborn you may set it down that
we have started home but we may not
get there till our time is up infact I dont
expect to be loose untill my time is up the
eighth past Winnie boys has gone home
there time being out I seen my cozin
since I was leave he was verry glad his time
was out & he could get home once more
to his mother happy boy is he success
to all such the Regment was on review
the day we come in heare it was not much
larger than our Corn hang was when we
started out we left wabash with 97
men we have 32 now all told where
are they this is hard to answer but
go to the grave yard that reaches
from Louisville to Atlanta

May 28th D. C.

Sunday Morning Camp near Washington Cittey Mrs Dockers I am Still here a long ways from home 850 miles but we can soon come when we Start But as to when that will be I cannot say I do not Expect to be mustered out for 10 or 15 days maby Sooner maby longer cant tell this is a big thing to go settle up I like home but I think the officers is all doing their best this being the case I of corse will Resign my fate of Saing I take it the best I can I was in the cittey yesterday I was in the Capital white House & the Patent office they are the finest houses I have ever seen there is a heap curiositys in them

it has been raining for 2
days & nights but this morning
it is clear & nice. They have
commenced paying off the
troops & will continue I guess
until Jan If I get my pay
~~I will express it~~
Indianapolis or Lafayette even
if I start on the same train
as I do there is a thousand
hogs ready to steal all they
can get I have enough in
hay all I owe and a few dollars
left extra of my wages I mean
there is a man living on
by the hogs here in the corn
I do forget the last I heard
of you but the last I think I
am looking for one now I hope
I will not be disappointed we
have nothing to do but the
time is very lonesome I am

all are so anxious to come
home we are fretful contrary
pretty much like a old bear
I have nothing of interest to
write I will close hoping soon
to see you there is no certainty as
to when I will be at home it
may be two or 20 days can't say
yours with much love

E. L. Decker

July the 22, 1864
Near Atlanta Ga

Mrs Decker & Children I have is as well I as I could be expected at least I eat a heart too pound of Bacon & beef yesterday breakfast we are now within 2 or 3 miles of the City our corpse is 3 miles off Gen. McPherson has gon round and took poccession of the Railroad an strongly fortifyed the Rebels has been trying to rout him for fore days but he shoots them off with Greate Slaughter Gen. Hooker killed in one charge nine hundred and wounded and took prisoners fif thousand they charged him he was in his works we have good works all a long our lines it would scear a Rhoshian to pass a long where we was coming to stop then come in 40 or 50 minits afterwards and see how we had fell the the timber & ditched we can build in 30 minits breast works that a canon cant shake the rebs is doing all they can to get there machinery and comissary a way by but we dont want them to no them either we have been in no Engagement yet much love to you and the two little Girls Good By for this time I get the thread dont send any hat much oblige C. B. Decker

Tue 24 C 47

Ms Decken Good morning how goes by this time well I am glad to heare it. Oh I am as well as comon I thank you the Children is well I guess Glad to heare it things heare this morning is verry favorable according to my Military views the canon is still booming the Eleventhe Indiana battery is & has been throwing shell in atlanta for 16 hours there is fore 20 pound parriots and 2. 24pound howitzers Gen Rousaw has been gone round on the right wing with 13 thousand cavaldry Gen Smith is to conect with him near

Some place I forget they are going to Americus One hundred & 50 miles from heare to release our prisoners the Rebels has there is 17 thousand of them there if the Gen — can accomplish this it will be one off the master peats of the war & there is all confidence he will the Rebs I think is leaving atlanta as fast as they can Gen Thomas says we have killed & wounded 10 thousand since we have been heare & our Brigade has been in no regular engagement hope it wont — Gen McPherson was shot the other day he comanded the 15 – 16 & 17 corpses he was a Splendid General his loss will be felt

Mrs Lurana I will ask a favor of providing you can make it it the Body of our corpse is a acorn or a corns can you make one it so I would receive it very cheerfully and I would Esteem it more highly than if it cost 5 dollars I will try to show you the plan but I no you no more than I can tell you ' the new this is not it but a little sorty so a Roman bunch of acorns with the Stem and hull on blue if the color I have just heard from the 39 or 87 they are with Gen Rosane I see that there is a call for a million men by the 5 of Sept — this will hurt some no doubt but we will put this thing down I no mistake if they come out nice the rebels will give up before they all get to the Ohio River but I think we will have them whiped before that time So no much Love to you & the Babies & all Friends

I have got no money as yet we will be paid off when we get to Atlanta I think the Reason we cant paid is we are moving so much & all the time

E B Decker

To Mrs Lurana Decker & Daughters

Dear Huffler is come up he is well So is Dain

I do not see that I can write
any thing that will interest you as you
are in Washington me be best it be you
write out general on you if I get off a
week or so I will come home with the same
clothes on I have worn for 6 months they
are pretty hard out I would order any
more but if I get paid before I come
I may by me a suit I all so will come
without any money as I am now out

Ellis Lee

Camp No 3 [illegible]
District of Columbia

In Washington City [illegible]
I am thoroughly [illegible] that I have
to lay my [illegible] down [illegible] have and likely
to lie for 5 or 6 days yet the fleas are
so [illegible] that I can't go. There [illegible]
I can sleep. The lice are [illegible]
day [illegible] I can. They go out
of our [illegible] I [illegible] work [illegible]
[illegible] day [illegible] me [illegible] I will not
be at home for at least [illegible] is out
this is sweet I sit down long to you but it
will soon run out I cannot tell what
road I will come I am certain the I come
by the way of Anderson I will get off I
come by home [illegible] I have to go to
the City the next day it will be [illegible] for
you to stay till I come home as I [illegible]
I will have to go to [illegible] City one day

There is 124,000 troops
here & we are being all the
time reinforced our destination
is Nashville Tenn we will
have 75,000 the troops in
our division the 89 Regiment
the first in this division
to draw fresh blood
& nearly 40 of our troops
encountered their calvary
& killed 7 wounded 2
our troops were not harmed
My address

89 Regiment Ind Vol
Care of Capt Stevenson
Nolinville Post
Ky

Camp Weaver Ky
Oct 19th 61

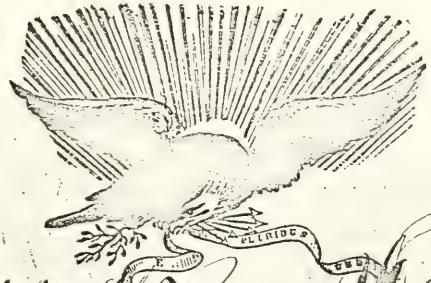
Mr G. B. Cooke Wife
Tipton

Dear Sir & Sister I
write to tell you how
proud I was to hear
from you & sister Elvira
I was glad you were so
punctual in writing to
me. My health has
been blessed from God
the Giver of all good
gifts. My health is tol-
erable good at present
& I am rapidly improv-
ing in flesh & have been
performing duty for the
past week. I am glad
to hear of your success
in business especially

in Horse Trading &
those you will Get as
high as the first six inches
of Bryll A— Before I come
home, I I want to get
home in the Spring, So
that I can lay around
your mansion & feast
8 times a day at your
sumptuous Table & spend
my life in interesting
your Sister in interest
ing conversation Be always
allowed to sit at the
head of the table allowed
the privilege of using a
knife & fork & Eat what
I want more of this wish
is not Good Enough for
you you must Get some
one else to wish for you

let
as a
thing
that
of
Belie
it a
insit
its
help
Bless
want
Sir
and
Enou
But
after
Flow
Be

Sister Sine you
let out writing just
as I expected. the first
thing you thought of was
that sweet little Babe
of yours. Sister I will
believe you when you say
it as freely. I immediately
insist that it favors
its uncle Dan. can't
help it if it be freely
Bless the little thing I
would like to see it
Give my love to Father
and Brumby & to all my
Enquiring friends you &
But must write to me
often for I am always
glad to hear from you
Your Sister
C. A. Cocke Dallas



State of Tennessee Polk Co
Murry County March 24/62

Mr. E. B. Decker
Sir

with much pleasure I pick up my pen to inform you that my health is getting good hoping those few lines will find you and family enjoying good health — —
we are encamp for good only means when we but some when on the tennessee River, supposed to be cheaters we will be detained here for per haps 2 weeks Bivoking to Briely overlooking Duck River

the bridge is 800 feet long
there is nothing of interest
going on except what you
are posted in for I know
you are reading the news
papers and are posted in
all our movements & especial
in our victory that crown
the march of our troops
Victory is perch on our ban-
ners and by more we make
I suppose it to say that we
are making no enemys but
a host of friends as we
advance in the interior of
the South the people all
are finding out that the
Davis clique is all a humbug
and that is what I think
Half is full of such men

I have written several letters home in the last few days, merely to let you know something of my health

yours Lieut Decker
Co G, 89, Reg, Ind, Vol
Columbia Tennessee

Mr C K Decker & wife

I hope that Babies of yours stay ear getting fat & prettier as the advance in age tell the Lord Sam will be going to see them soon if the Lord kill me here

Dear Sis [illegible]
Through [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible] Regt

To Lt. Col. Dixon

Lieut. Jno. Camp Pres.

R. G. [illegible]

To the 39 Regiment

Indiana volunteers To Lt. Col.

G. [illegible] this to tell that

in case we all should fare

[illegible] Big [illegible] that [illegible]

[illegible] to the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] by [illegible] Big [illegible] this

time [illegible] Dixon and

family. [illegible] Jack

Must [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] to Keep [illegible]

I will come to Quincy

[illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] Bell I write [illegible]

[illegible]

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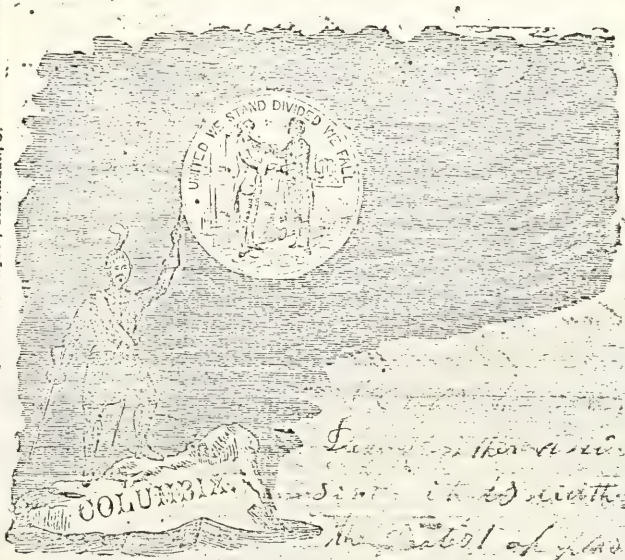

I have rather a little
time to write with
the hotel of pleasure
that I take this time to let you know
that I am well at this time and
I hope that these few lines will
find you in good health you wrote to
Jas G D that you did not get
to see the Peters [illegible]
did not think that there was any
thing in the way that you will have
to wait for the letter for you all
are there together and when I write
to you I think that you all have
read it. But if you have not I

[illegible] right to all of you But
there is so many of you there
and so close together that one
letter would do you all as much
as her alone it might do so many
But when you get this you
can send one and let
them all read the letter that
is in that part of the country
and let me know how you are all
getting along I would like to
see you all but I can't for some
time and I can't say that I will see
that part of the country at all But if
I live I will see you all and if I
get killed it will not be much
loss I would like if C. B. was here
with me at this time I have rec
ed 2 letters since I left home
and I have got 1 from home I got 2
but none from home when
you get this you can tell them how
many they have got I rote when
I was at Camp Harrison 2 letters

i har rote so much that I har
not got much to write i har
got in as finest Marshes geed
i har not got to Drill i har got
to scout and catch Rebels and a
rest all that is in Rad Union
and catch them that is stealing that
is my Duty you can get at
the rest i har not got much
to write I think that we will
have peas soon there is some 200
of us here at this time there is
some of the rebels out some 10 or 12
miles from here but there was
some thing like from 100 to 150 hundred
left here last night to attacked them
and i har not heard how they
made out yet there is good health
here at this time that is all that
i har got to write at this
time write soon if you plas
J. E. B. Tucker Over Marine Tucker
From Blue Lusk

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